

SEVERE LOCAL STORMS FOR NOVEMBER 1948

[The table hereunder contains such data as have been received concerning severe local storms that occurred during the month. A revised list will appear in the United States Meteorological Yearbook]

Place	Date	Time	Width of path, yards	Loss of life	Value of property destroyed	Character of storm	Remarks
Oregon, northern coast.....	2-3	-----	Several	3	\$6,000	Winds and high tides.	Extremely high tides, accompanied by 40 m. p. h. winds, caused much shore line erosion, isolated some peninsular communities; disrupted power and water service at Bay City near Tillamook; damaged many beach cottages; and damaged a natatorium. Much damage not included in estimate. 3 duck hunters drowned when their boat overturned.
Arkansas, entire State.....	4-5	Afternoon, 4th, morning, 5th.	-----	-----	60,000	Hail and wind.	Thunderstorms accompanied passage of "Cold Front" from northwest across State. Damage widespread, but minor except in central portion of State. Major damage at Searcy night of 4th when 2 hangars destroyed and 9 planes damaged to extent of \$30,000. \$5,000 damage at Arkadelphia, mostly by hail to 3 greenhouses. Hailstones up to 2 inches in diameter. Remaining \$25,000 damage from broken windows, damaged roofs, and utilities over State.
Rapides through LaSalle to Catahoula Parish, La.	5	12:30-2:30 a. m.	100	1	320,000	Tornado	Developed near Alexandria and moved northeastward to vicinity of Vicksburg, Miss. Path about 120 miles long. Greatest damage at Harrisonburg and Sicily Island in Catahoula Parish. 19 persons injured. 51 buildings destroyed and 40 damaged. No material damage to crops, as harvesting practically over.
Crenshaw and Pike Counties, Ala.	5	1:30-3 a. m.	-----	-----	40,000	Thundersqualls.	5 persons injured, 4 cabins destroyed, 35 other dwellings damaged, and 33 miscellaneous buildings damaged or destroyed.
Rochester, Ky.	5	4:30 a. m.	880	0	25,000	Tornado	School unroofed and gymnasium building almost completely destroyed. Many farm buildings and stored crops seriously damaged.
Benton, Yazoo County, Miss.	5	5 a. m.	100	9	450,000	do.	Path 15 miles long. High winds at all stations in Yazoo and nearby counties. 39 persons injured. 95 buildings destroyed, 35 damaged. 1 residence completely demolished. Many other buildings severely damaged. Many cows, chickens, and other livestock killed. Much corn, tobacco, and wheat, stored in barns, scattered and destroyed.
Cecelia, Ky.	5	5:45 a. m.	50	1	50,000	do.	1 injury.
Vicksburg, Miss.	5	6 a. m.	-----	0	10,000	do.	Believed to be same tornado which passed through Rapides, LaSalle and Catahoula Parishes, Louisiana, earlier. Damage mostly to trees and roofs.
Ripley, Tippah County, Miss.	5	6:30 a. m.	150	1	100,000	do.	Length of path unknown, may have crossed into Tennessee. 13 persons injured. 24 buildings destroyed, 2 damaged.
Giles and Maury Counties, Tenn.	5	1 p. m.	13	0	11,400	do.	Gales from Yokley community to Southport. Wires blown down; tobacco damaged when barns blown apart; church unroofed; and 8 to 10 houses and barns damaged.
Bowdon (near), Carroll County, Ga.	5	6:30-6:32 p. m.	100	0	5,950	do.	First in series of 3 storms that struck between Bowdon and Cedartown. Moved northward over path approximately 2 miles long. Most damage in farm section just beyond western limits of Bowdon. No injuries, 2 homes badly damaged; the upper floor of one practically demolished with furnishings scattered widely. Several barns destroyed and several small houses damaged. Trees uprooted: some of which, in falling, injured livestock and tore down power lines. 2 mules hurt and 50 or more chickens killed. Several bales of cotton blown away. "Live" wires blown down across highway. Estimate includes \$500 crop loss.
Cedartown, Polk County, Ga.	5	6:40-6:41 p. m.	200	0	125,000	do.	Storm from southwest, cut diagonal path through Cedartown, barely missed the downtown area, and was quickly over. Worst storm ever to strike Cedartown. 4 residences and several other buildings destroyed; 70 buildings heavily damaged, with lesser damage to at least 60 other buildings; many windows broken and signs, doors, etc., blown off. Considerable damage to power and telephone lines. 2 persons painfully injured, and several others sustained minor cuts and bruises.
Buchanan vicinity, Haralson County, Ga.	5	Late evening	-----	0	-----	do.	Information incomplete. Storm apparently less severe than at Bowdon.
Prairie du Chien, Wis.	6	4 a. m.	-----	2	-----	Wind.	2 men drowned when waves swamped boat.
Pine Grove, Pa.	6	Night	-----	-----	6,000	Electrical.	Lightning damaged a barn.
Ghent, N. Y.	13	3:30 p. m.	440	-----	8,000	Wind.	Winds of near tornadic force destroyed a highway department garage and damaged road machinery stored therein.
Boston, Mass., and suburbs.	13	5:30-6 p. m.	-----	-----	-----	Electrical and wind.	Short, intense thunderstorm with wind squalls reaching 40 m. p. h., disrupted plane, train, and bus services. High wind and lightning felled branches and trees, which pulled down light, power, and telephone lines.
Lemoyne, Pa.	13	-----	-----	-----	-----	Wind.	Tree blown down in path of automobile; this car and following car crashed; 6 people injured.
Washington, northern coastal area.	16	7 a. m.-10 p. m.	-----	6	86,600	Winds	High winds, accompanying a maritime disturbance, reached an extreme velocity of 49 m. p. h. from southwest at Seattle. Considerable damage to small craft, harbor installations, and breakwaters in Straits of Juan de Fuca, extending from Neah Bay to Port Townsend. 2 tugboats sunk in comparatively shallow water near Port Townsend and 1 off mouth of Columbia River; 6 lives lost. Important damage to telephone and power lines as far south as Seattle. Loss of the 3 tugs not included in estimate.
Columbia and Hattiesburg, Miss.	16	Noon	-----	-----	10,000	do.	Damage to trees and roofs.
Walker, Livingston Parish, La.	16	12:35 p. m.	-----	-----	95,000	do.	7 buildings destroyed, 10 damaged. 1 person injured. 200 school children escaped, when gymnasium collapsed.
White Hall (near), Ill.	16	1:35 p. m.	-----	-----	-----	do.	Bus overturned after gusty winds forced it off highway; driver injured.
Cambridge, Henry County, Ill.	16	1:45 p. m.	-----	-----	10,000	do.	Several fairground buildings damaged. Many small farm buildings destroyed and others lost roofs. Several trees blown down in Cambridge.
Geneseo, Henry County, Ill.	16	do.	-----	-----	-----	do.	Several telephone poles broken and some trees uprooted in rural areas.
Jacksonville, Ill.	16	2 p. m.	-----	-----	1,500	do.	8 large glass window panes smashed in showroom, damaging new car.
Dickson Mounds, Fulton County, Ill.	16	do.	-----	-----	-----	do.	Rural school unroofed, outbuildings damaged, and trees uprooted.
Williamsville-Sherman area, Sangamon County, Ill.	16	2:15 p. m.	-----	-----	15,000	do.	7 farms suffered considerable damage to homes and outbuildings.
Decatur, Ill.	16	2:45 p. m.	-----	-----	-----	do.	3 small airplanes damaged at Decatur Municipal Airport.
Missouri, entire State	16	Afternoon	-----	-----	-----	do.	Straight-line winds, reaching 62 m. p. h. in gusts at St. Louis Municipal Airport, caused minor damage in St. Louis area to trees, signs, wires, plate glass windows, and steeple of a church. At Martinsburg, a plate glass window blown out and 1 person slightly injured by flying glass.
Waukegan, Ill.	16	4:05 p. m.	-----	-----	-----	do.	Winds up to 81 m. p. h. blew down several trees and partially disrupted utility services.

¹ Miles instead of yards.

SEVERE LOCAL STORMS FOR NOVEMBER 1948—Continued

[The table hereunder contains such data as have been received concerning severe local storms that occurred during the month. A revised list will appear in the United States Meteorological Yearbook.]

Place	Date	Time	Width of path, yards	Loss of life	Value of property destroyed	Character of storm	Remarks
Pontiac, Ill. Wisconsin, southern portion.	16 16	4:30 p. m. 5:30 p. m. to midnight.		1	15,000	Wind. Wind and electrical.	3 airplanes damaged at Chief City Airport. Granary, tool shed, and hog barn destroyed. Light and telephone lines disrupted. Trees downed; buildings and advertising signs damaged. 9 persons injured in traffic accidents. Lightning struck radio tower of station WLIP at Kenosha, knocking out a coupling. 1 man drowned in Lake Butte des Morts.
Honolulu, Oahu, T. H.	17	P. m.			12,000	Rain	Chief damage upper Manoa and Palolo Valley areas; several bridges washed away.
Michigan, entire State.	17-18	Evening and early morning.			50,000	Winds	An intense "Low" moved across Michigan, causing unusually high winds which damaged many trees, buildings, and curtailed for a time navigation on the Great Lakes. Communication and power facilities damaged. Unusually low tides along some lake shores.
Franklin and Richland Parishes, La.	18	6:30-7:30 a. m.	150	0	125,000	Tornado	High winds over entire State, with many reports of slight damage. 12 persons injured, mostly at Delhi. 17 buildings destroyed, 15 damaged.
E. Feliciana Parish, La. Louisiana, northeastern portion.	18 18	Morning. All day				Wind and hail. Rain	Some of the heaviest rain of record in area from Rapides Parish north-eastward to East Carroll Parish. Streams flooded; some highways covered. Reported that Red River below Alexandria rose 12 feet on 19th-20th. Remnants of cotton in fields damaged.
Magnolia and southern Columbia County, Ark.	18	Afternoon			10,000	Wind	Covered wide area during thunderstorm, from Magnolia south to Arkansas-Louisiana border. Damage mostly to roofs, outbuildings, trees, and utility lines, especially at Magnolia.
Caddo Parish, La.	18	do.			75,000	do.	Oil derricks on Caddo Lake demolished.
Lamar County, Miss.	18	3 p. m.			20,000	do.	8 buildings destroyed, 16 damaged. 2 persons injured.
Alcorn County, Miss.	18	7:30 p. m.			5,000	do.	12 buildings damaged.
Union County, Miss.	18	do.			30,000	do.	6 buildings destroyed.
Calhoun City, Miss.	18	do.	150	0	250,000	Tornado	Path about 30 miles long. 25 persons injured. 55 buildings destroyed, 60 damaged.
Lake Charles, La.	18	do.			20,000	Wind	Occurred just ahead of wind shift. Homes and garages damaged, trees uprooted. Gusts to 60 m. p. h. at Weather Bureau Office.
Lauderdale County, Ala.	18	10 p. m.			20,000	Thundersqualls	1 cabin destroyed, 17 other dwellings damaged, and 23 other buildings damaged or destroyed.
Kansas, western two-thirds.	18-19	Began about midnight, 18th.		3		Blizzard	Winds of 60 m. p. h. with snowfalls of 4 to 10 inches. Visibility zero to ¼ mile at times and drifts 6 to 20 feet deep. All traffic paralyzed and wire service disrupted. Most highways in a 19-county area closed 2 to 4 days and train service suspended from 48 to 72 hours and some branch lines out of operation for 10 days. Many automobiles stalled on highways. 5 percent of cattle and 25 to 40 percent of sheep lost in some areas, totalling altogether several million dollars.
South Dakota, southeastern portion.	18-19	8:28 a. m. 18th -4 p. m. 19th.		1		Snow and wind	High winds drifted snow; averaged depth 4 to 15 inches; some drifts 15 feet high. Temperatures around 25°. Traffic halted from 1 to 2 days.
Nebraska.	18-19		1300	4		Blizzard	Snowfalls of 8 to 20 inches over central and northeastern areas and smaller amounts elsewhere; driven by winds reaching gale force. Highways west of Lincoln closed for a few days; blocked in northeast. Communication and power lines disrupted. Supplies could not get to numerous communities for 2 to 5 days. Livestock losses not serious, but a large loss of turkeys in Grand Island area and neighboring counties. Many persons marooned. Much interruption of air line, railroad, and bus services. Damage estimated in hundreds of thousands of dollars.
Iowa, northwestern portion.	18-20	Noon 18th-noon 20th.				Snow, sleet and wind.	Highways slick by 5 p. m., 18th. Early on 19th, heavy rain and some thunder followed by heavy sleet and strong north winds; then snow and blowing snow with temperatures slightly below freezing. Blizzard-like conditions afternoon of 19th blocked highways and stopped travel. Area affected in Iowa approximately north of a line from Sioux City to Storm Lake to Emmetsburg. 5 to 8 inches of snow in extreme northwest, with drifts of 4 to 6 feet. Strong winds and accumulation of ice caused many telephone power lines to break. Many schools closed.
Minnesota, extreme southwestern counties.	18-20					Glaze, sleet, snow, and wind.	Many poles and wires down, disrupting communication and electric services. Traffic seriously delayed by snow drifts. Some loss to livestock in transit. Large branches of trees broken off. Ice began to form about 1 a. m. of 19th and remained on wires in some localities until 28th. Thickness of ice on wires varies from ¼ to 1½ inches in diameter; heaviest ice formation in vicinity of Windom. Most damage to overhead wires and trees by combined weight of ice and moist snow. Unusually heavy snows fell in extreme southwestern counties. A C&NW train reported snowbound about 12 hours near Adrian. More than 4,200 wire breaks occurred and more than 1,050 poles were down. Loss to overhead wire systems estimated at \$100,000.
Jefferson Parish, La.	19	12:30 a. m.			10,000	Wind	Signs wrecked, damaging 2 buildings.
Pensacola, Fla.	19	7:14-7:17 a. m.			500,000	Thundersquall	Coal tippie at Frisco Railroad wharf wrecked, when it rolled to end of track and upset. Extreme wind of 22 m. p. h. at Weather Bureau and gust of 44 m. p. h. at Naval Air Station. 1 person injured.
Wisconsin, northern portion.	19-20	Noon of 19th-10 a. m., 20th.				Wind and snow	A northeast gale forced a 11,900 ton steamer aground in Superior harbor, damaging it considerably with several holes in ship's side. Another vessel also grounded. Damage to harbor at Bayfield amounted to \$1,000.
Talbot County, Ga.	19	1 p. m.		0		Tornado	Reports incomplete. Red Cross indicates that 2 persons injured, 2 houses and a smaller building destroyed, and 5 buildings damaged.
Atlanta (near), Ga.	19	do.	200	0	10,000	do.	Struck Forest Park, a small community 1½ miles southeast of Atlanta city limits. Very small area affected. Storm lifting soon after it struck. 2 tenant houses destroyed, 1 was carried 150 feet. Dairy barn unroofed and made unfit for service. Garage and several small barns destroyed. Trees uprooted or blown down. About one-fourth of damage was to crops.
Plains (near), Sumter County, Ga.	19	do.	100-200	0	10,000	do.	Struck about 1½ miles north of Plains Community and moved north-eastward, 2 miles or more on ground. 1 house destroyed, with household goods blown away. 3 widely separated tenant houses destroyed. 3 barns destroyed, including loss of 2 cows and 2 hogs and a large amount of peanuts. Automobile rolled over and wrecked. Many trees uprooted. 4 injuries. About one-tenth of damage was to crops.

¹ Miles instead of yards.

SEVERE LOCAL STORMS FOR NOVEMBER 1948—Continued

[The table hereunder contains such data as were received concerning severe local storms that occurred during the month. A revised list will appear in the United States Meteorological Yearbook]

Place	Date	Time	Width of path, yards	Loss of life	Value of property destroyed	Character of storm	Remarks
St. Louis City and St. Louis County, Mo.	19	1-4 p. m.				Wind	Straight-line winds reaching 50 m. p. h. in gusts caused minor damage to signs, roofs, and a few farm fences.
Green Bay, Wis.	19	3 p. m.			2,500	Electrical	Small home struck by lightning, partially burned.
Fayette County, Ohio	19	8 p. m.	100			Winds	Damage about 4 miles north of Jeffersonville. Windows on one side of farm home blown in; barn on another farm destroyed and small buildings and fences damaged; also corn fodder scattered over wide area.
Duluth-Superior, Minn.	19	P. m.				Snow and wind	S. S. <i>Robert Hobson</i> , Great Lakes ore carrier, grounded in Duluth-Superior harbor. S. S. <i>Wayne</i> , an excursion vessel, blown about half mile from moorings at Duluth dock. Navigation on Lake Superior impeded and many vessels held in port.
Ridgeway, S. C.	19				5,000	Wind	Man seriously injured when home destroyed. 3 nearby barns and several smaller buildings burned down.
Gestmar, La.	27				25,000	do	Church demolished; other buildings damaged.
Barry County, Mo.	27-28	Night of 27th and forenoon of 28th.				do	High winds, accompanying a 2½-inch snowstorm, disrupted light and power service at Cassville and vicinity for about 6 hours.
Fort Davis, Macon County, Ala.	28	Late forenoon			5,000	Thundersqualls	6 cabins blown down, injuring 4 persons.
Waimea (vicinity of), Hawaii, T. H.	28-30					Winds	Crops damaged; loss to lettuce growers estimated over \$20,000.